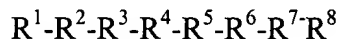


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating alopecia, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof at least one active agent comprising a sequence of at least ~~[three]~~ seven contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I



wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, Asp, Glu, Asn, Acpc (1-aminocyclopentane carboxylic acid), Ala, Me²Gly, Pro, Bet, Glu(NH₂), Gly, Asp(NH₂) and Suc,

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of Arg, Lys, Ala, Orn, Ser(Ac), Sar, D-Arg and D-Lys;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of Val, Ala, Leu, Lys, norLeu, Ile, Gly, Pro, Aib, Acpc and Tyr;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of Tyr, Tyr(PO₃)₂, Thr, Ser, Ala, homoSer and azaTyr;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of Ile, Ala, Leu, norLeu, Val and Gly;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of His, Arg or 6-NH₂-Phe;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of Pro or Ala; and

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of Phe, Phe(Br), Ile and Tyr, excluding sequences including R^4 as a terminal Tyr group.

2. (Canceled) [~~The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises a sequence of at least four contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.~~]

3. (Canceled) [~~The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises a sequence of at least five contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.~~]

4. (Canceled) [~~The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises a sequence of at least six contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.~~]
5. (Canceled) [~~The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises a sequence of at least seven contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.~~]
6. (Canceled) [~~The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least three contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.~~]
7. (Canceled) [~~The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least four contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.~~]
8. (Canceled) [~~The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least five contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.~~]
9. (Canceled) [~~The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists essentially of a sequence of at least six contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.~~]
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists [essentially] of a sequence of at least seven contiguous amino acids of groups R^1 - R^8 in the sequence of general formula I.
11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent comprises the sequence SEQ ID NO:41.
12. (Previously canceled)
13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the active agent consists of the sequence SEQ ID NO:41.
14. (Previously Canceled)
15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the alopecia is associated with a disorder selected from the group consisting of adrenergic alopecia, telogen effluvium, alopecia areata, traumatic alopecia, anagen effluvium, nutritional deficiencies, metabolic defects, marked

weight loss, diabetes, hypervitaminosis, hypovitaminosis, zinc deficiency, alopecia vulgaris, alopecia pustulosa, alopecia erythrodermica, alopecia arthropathica, para-alopecia, palmoplantar pustulosis, ichthyoses, keratodermias, and genodermatoses with pathological cornification disorders.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising treating the subject with an amount effective of another compound for treating ~~[or preventing]~~ alopecia, selected from the group consisting of minoxidol, keratinocyte growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, epidermal growth factor, butyric acid and its derivatives, ammonium trichloro(dioxy ethylene-0,0') tellurate, interleukin 1, prostaglandin E2, cyclosporine A, corticosteroids and calcitriol.